

Message Text

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INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 5020

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MORG, HO

SUBJECT: COMUSMILGP SERVICE AFFILIATION

REF: (A) USCINCSO DTG 101920Z NOV 75 (NOTAL)

(B) TEGUCIGALPA 3723 (NOTAL)

1. AS A RESULT OF THE RECENTLY COMPLETED TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF MILITARY GROUP COMMAND POSITIONS, SOUTHCOM FORWARDED TO JCS A RECOMMENDATION, SUMMARIZED IN REF (A), THAT AN AIR FORCE OFFICER REPLACE THE PRESENT ARMY COMMANDER IN DY 76.

2. MY POSITION ON THE MATTER OF SERVICE AFFILIATION OF THE COMMANDER, US MILITARY GROUP (COMUSMILGP) WAS PASSED TO SOUTHCOM BY REF. (B). MY STRONGLY HELD PREFERENCE IS THAT THE PRESENT INCUMBENT BE REPLACED AT END OF TOUR BY AN ARMY COLONEL.

3. THE HC MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS ESSENTIALLY ARMY DIRECTED. AT THIS TIME, I DO NOT FORESEE ANY MAJOR CHANGE IN THIS SITUATION WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS. EVEN AFTER AN EVENTUAL RETURN TO CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT, THE ARMY WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE PREDOMINANT SERVICE IN HONDURAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR POLITICAL INFLUENCE.

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4. I FIND IT EXTREMELY USEFUL TO EFFECTIVE COUNTRY TEAM

OPERATIONS HERE IN HONDURAS TO HAVE SENIOR OFFICERS OF DIFFERENT MILITARY SERVICES REPRESENTING THE DAO AND MILGP.

5. THE ENTIRE DAO STAFF, HEADED BY A RECENTLY ASSIGNED USAF COLONEL, IS AIR FORCE. ADDITIONALLY , THE MILGP HAS AN AIR FORCE SECTION, HEADED BY A USAF LTC. THE SMALL HC AIR FORCE REMAINS RELATIVELY APOLITICAL, AS COMPARED TO THE ARMY.

6. THE RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT OF AN AIR FORCE OFFICER TO HEAD MILGP HONDURAS IN CY 76 DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REALITIES OF THE MILITARY/POLITICAL SITUATION HERE AT THIS TIME, NOR DOES IT REFLECT MY STATED VIEWS ON THE MATTER.

7. THEREFORE, I WISH TO ENSURE THAT MY POSITION IS CLEARLY KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WHEN THE SOUTHCOM RECOMMENDATION COMES UP FOR CONSIDERATION.
SANCHEZ

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